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ing libraries—L. J. Burpee.

Round table—on management of small libraries and commission work.

Afternoon. Fifth General Session.

French Canadian Literature.

Songs of the voyageurs.

Indian poetry (Pauline Johnson if possible).

Adjournment.

There will be an exhibition of late technical books arranged by E. H. McClelland, Technical Librarian, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh; Edward D. Tweedell, Reference Librarian, John Crerar Library; Edward F. Stevens, Librarian, Pratt Institute Free Library.

### AN OUTLINE OF MACKINAC HISTORY

Owing to the strategic importance of the waterway known as the Straits of Mackinac, it has played a considerable part on the stage of Western history. The power holding its shores and islands has been able to command the commerce of the three uppermost members of the Great Lakes chain—Huron, Michigan, and Superior. France, Great Britain, and the United States have, each in their turn, here

maintained forts of importance, not only to guard their frontiers but to protect their fur-trade throughout the great Northwest.

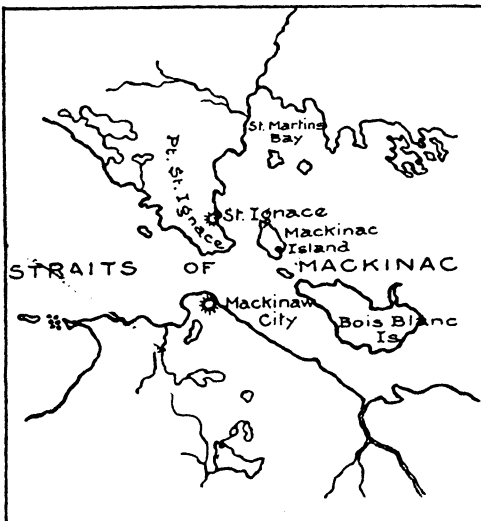
While the name Mackinac\* was originally applied by aborigines to the island alone, the term soon extended to the contiguous shores. Thus, in historical documents of the French and British regimes, Mackinac means either the district at large, or, more particularly, the place where the mission or fort of the day was located; and this location differed from period to period.

1. On the Island. In 1670, it would appear that Father Dablon established upon the Island of Mackinac the Jesuit mission of St. Ignace.

2. At St. Ignace. The Father wished more room for cornfields for his converts; and probably he found that, in the days of birchbark canoes, the island was less convenient than the mainland, as a base for his ministrations to the Indians of the neighborhood. In 1671, therefore, he moved to Point St. Ignace, on the north shore of the Straits. Here, for about forty years, a chapel was maintained by successive Jesuits, whose influence spread among the savages of a wide stretch of wilderness.

From this mission, in the spring of 1673, Father Marquette and Louis Jolliet departed on their famous voyage of discovery, wherein they found the Mississippi River; and here at the Franciscan mission of today, rest part of the bones of the great missionary.

About 1683 a French fort was established in the neighborhood of the mission, in order to protect the large fur-trade of a district which extended from Georgian Bay to the sources of the Mississippi. Around the fort soon developed a small village of habitants and voyageurs, who were dependent on this commerce of the wilderness. The fort was maintained



\*Originally Michilimackinac, an Algonquian term meaning "great turtle," which has reference to the shape of the island. This has been abbreviated to Mackinac; which, despite its spelling, is properly pronounced as if spelled "Mackinaw."

until 1698, when its garrison was withdrawn by order of the government. After the founding of Detroit in 1701, the inhabitants, and with them the Indians who lived near St. Ignace, almost wholly withdrew to the new centre of French influence in the Northwest. The Jesuits, however, remained at their mission during the greater part of fifteen years of isolation.

3. Near Mackinaw City. In 1713, the Jesuits of Mackinac were rewarded for their persistence by the reappearance of French soldiery, who built a new Fort Michilimackinac on the south shore of the Straits, not far from the present Mackinaw City (or "Old Mackinaw," as it was long called by the English).\*

As a result of the downfall of New France, this French fort was peacefully surrendered to the British, who eventually abbreviated its name to Fort Mackinac. Here occurred, two years later, the massacre of a large part of the British garrison by Pontiac's warriors, as related by Parkman, and the retreat of the survivors to l'Arbre Croche (near the Harbor Springs of our day).

British troops returned in the autumn of 1764, however, and maintained their garrison in the neighborhood of Mackinaw City until 1781.

4. Back to the Island. In that year (1781) the British forces removed to Mackinac Island, which they had recently purchased from the Indians. The island lies well within the boundaries of the United States, as established by the treaty with Great Britain in 1783; but it will be remembered by librarians (all of whom are naturally well versed in Western history) that on various pretexts Great Britain retained possession of her old forts on the upper Great Lakes until 1796, when, under Jay's treaty, these were finally handed over to us.

The British then withdrew to St. Joseph's Island, forty miles to the northeast, which librarians will pass on their way to Sault Ste. Marie. From here, in July,

1812, they descended upon Mackinac Island (beaching their boats at "British Landing," on the northwest shore) and took possession of the American fort. The Americans tried to recapture the place in August, 1814, but were repelled. Fort Holmes, in the rear of the present fort, is named for one of our prominent officers killed in this assault. Under the treaty of Ghent, the island was in 1815 restored to the United States, which has since possessed it.

Whether mainland or island, Mackinac was commercially important only so long as the fur-trade remained the principal business of the upper lakes. After 1835, with the inrush of American frontiersmen to the northern half of the Mississippi Valley, this trade with the Indians fast subsided. Since then, the fort has been but spasmodically garrisoned, for modern conditions render the Straits of far less strategic importance than in former days.

To the historian and the historical novelist, the island and the Straits continue to be of the greatest interest, for the old Creole village and the dashing fur-trade of the old regime abounded in picturesque movement. Their stirring annals have furnished many a welcome splash of color to the otherwise sombre pages of Western history. But to others than fictionists and annalists, this old-time Malta of the upper lakes now means, aside from its physical charms, little more than a port of call for vessels passing her door. As for the tens of thousands of summer tourists, who swarm thither during July and August—the advance guard of whom we shall undoubtedly meet before the close of the conference—they know and care little, I fear, for the significance of Mackinac's history.

R. G. Thwaites.

### READING LIST

Baird, Elizabeth Thérèse. Reminiscences of early days on Mackinac Island. (Wisconsin Historical Collections, vol. 14, pp. 17-64.) A charming account of island life from 1810 to 1824, when the American fur-trade was at its height.

\*Note that the name of this town is spelled phonetically, to distinguish it from Mackinac on the Island.

Page, Lorena M. *Legendary lore of Mackinac; original poems of Indian legends of Mackinac Island.* (Cleveland: the Author, 1901).

Strickland, W. Peter. *Old Mackinaw; or, the fortress of the lakes and its surroundings.* (Philadelphia: James Challen & Son, 1860.)

Thwaites, R. G. *How George Rogers Clark won the Northwest, and other essays in Western history.* (Chicago: McClurg, 1903). Chapter iv, "The story of Mackinac."

Thwaites, R. G. *Father Marquette.* (New York: Appleton, 1902.) Marquette is the especial hero of the French regime, at Mackinac.

Van Fleet, J. A. *Old and new Mackinac; with copious extracts from Marquette, Hennepin, Lahontan, Cadillac, Alexander Henry, and others.*

### TRIP TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF LIBRARIANS AND ARCHIVISTS

Special party in charge of the Bureau of University Travel, sails from New York on Aug 6, on Red Star steamer "Vaderland." Returning arrives at New York Sept. 19. Cost of special trip including everything except fees on steamer, \$385.00, and covering Antwerp, a week in Paris, Rotterdam, The Hague, Amsterdam, a week in Brussels during the International Congress of Archivists and Librarians, Cologne, The Rhine, Heidelberg, Oberammergau Passion Play, Switzerland—Zurich, Lucerne, Interlaken, Berne—, Strasbourg.

Places in this party may still be secured. About 40 librarians and friends are now booked.

Portions of this tour may be omitted if desired, and refund made.

Passage only may be engaged for the going trip.

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### LIBRARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PRESS

The Secretary of the A. L. A. desires to give more publicity to the work of that organization and to library affairs in general. There are frequent happenings in the American Library Association and in library work which are of decided interest, not only to library workers, but to the general public. News of library meetings, interesting conclusions reached as to various phases of library work, reports of A. L. A. Committees, etc. should be given publicity, and to do this, the Secretary of the A. L. A. wishes the names and addresses of those who contribute library news to the daily press and to periodicals other than the library journals. So far as may be done, the Secretary will send advance copies of reports and other items of library news to these contributors.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Bookbuying

Mention should have been made in connection with the report written by W. P. Cutter which appeared in vol. 4, no. 2 of the A. L. A. Bulletin, that it had been adopted by the Bookbuying Committee. The following note with reference to Everyman's Library should have been appended:

Everyman's Library of which four hundred volumes have been published, in England by Dent and in this country by E. P. Dutton & Co., is now published in special library bindings, Bancroft cloths being used, the specifications for the binding being carefully made in accordance with the recommendations of our Bookbinding Committee. These books are sold in this binding at 35c per volume, and it is announced that a leather edition well made, will be placed on the market at 60c per volume. It is recommended that libraries that find it necessary to economize in the purchase of standard books, look carefully into the desirability of providing themselves with these books. It must